

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

Olga E. Maiorova, assistant professor of Slavic languages and literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1983	Moscow State University
M.A.	1980	Moscow State University

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1996 – 2001	Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World Culture, Moscow State University
1992 – 1998	Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences
1987 – 1992	Research Fellow, Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences
1986 – 1987	Instructor of History of Russian Poetry, Shchukin College of Theater Arts
1983 – 1985	Instructor of Russian Literature, Moscow State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Maiorova’s dedication to students, her sound pedagogical instincts, and the consistent and successful steps she has taken to advance her teaching to an excellent level have made her an outstanding teacher. Her courses include historical and political texts, in addition to literature, and serve both Slavic students and students from other University programs. Her teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels is innovative and interdisciplinary. She has mentored some of our best doctoral students, and her willingness to spend extra time to help graduate students in various ways has earned their sincere admiration.

Research – Professor Maiorova is an expert on Russian literature and culture of the 19th century. Her research is exceptional in its breadth, depth, and interdisciplinarity. She is a mature scholar who is recognized internationally for the two major bodies of work she has completed. Scholars admire the thoroughness of her research, the insightfulness of her analysis of texts, and her ability to make major breakthroughs in the understanding of complex cultural processes. Her forthcoming book, *From the Shadow of Empire*, is expected to be a very significant contribution to the field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

From the Shadow of Empire: Defining the Russian Nation through Cultural Mythology in the Great Reform Era, 1855-1870s, University of Wisconsin Press, forthcoming 2009.

“Searching for a new language of collective self: The symbolism of Russian national belonging during and after the Crimean War,” *Ab Imperio: Studies of New Imperial History and Nationalism in the Post-Soviet Space*, 4, 2006, pp. 187-224.

“War as peace: The trope of war in Russian nationalist discourse during the Polish uprising of 1863,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, 6(3), 2005, pp. 501-534.

“‘A horrid dream did burden us...’ (1863): Connecting Tiutchev's imagery with the political rhetoric of his era,” in *Russian Literature*, 57(1,2), 2005, pp. 103-124.

Service – Professor Maiorova’s service to the Department in its hiring initiatives over the past two years, on graduate admissions and fellowships committees, in her term as graduate student advisor, and presently as a member of the Executive Committee has been outstanding. She has also been a major force in reshaping and administering the graduate program. Professor Maiorova is an exemplary citizen who approaches her administrative duties with a sense of responsibility and commitment, and shows concern for excellence.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Maiorova has a very impressive record of research and scholarship, is already well-known and well respected among Slavic scholars in the United States, in Russia, and elsewhere, and will, once her book is out, be recognized as a major figure in this field.”

Reviewer (B)

“Maiorova’s book is an exemplary contribution to cultural history. ...[it] is extremely clear and readable and is well organized, both thematically and chronologically. The writing style is fluent and polished. Her book is a path-breaking...built on broad research in, and deep analysis of, the literature and historiography of the period.”

Reviewer (C)

“Perhaps the most important, and certainly for the historian the most prestigious of Professor Maiorova’s recent publications, is her ‘War as Peace. The Trope of War in Russian Nationalist Discourse...’ occupying thirty-four pages of *Kritika* (summer, 2005), which is one of our leading journals of Russian history. As an erstwhile associate editor and three-time contributor to this journal, I am well aware of its high standards. To be granted so much space is quite a tribute to her.”

Reviewer (D)

“A scholar like Maiorova will be indispensable in training graduate students both in nineteenth century—the core of the profession—and in research skills. Her interests are interdisciplinary, and I can imagine her working with historians both in teaching and on dissertation committees. ... Her book manuscript demonstrates how well she has made the transition to North American scholarship. ...it is well conceived and executed.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Dr. Maiorova commands a broad field of expertise, combining solid competence as a literary scholar and historian of Russian literature (the prose and poetry of the second half of the 19th century) with an interdisciplinary approach that bridges literary scholarship and intellectual

history. ... Many of her works (including the forthcoming book) address the double audience of scholars and students of both Russian literature and Russian intellectual history. In my opinion, they serve both parts of the audience well.”

Reviewer (F)

“Professor Maiorova’s scholarship is first rate. Her thinking is always strikingly original, and her research meticulous. Moreover, Professor Maiorova is an exceptionally erudite and productive scholar. It is her special strength that she is erudite in many fields and productive in different genres. Her expertise in nineteenth-century literature is a core of her scholarly identity, and it is extraordinary.”

Reviewer (G)

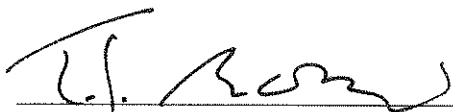
“Nobody surpasses her, in my judgment, in precise and intimate awareness of the broad spectrum of later nineteenth-century literary culture.”

Reviewer (H)

“This book will be a major milestone in research on Russian national identity in the nineteenth century. No other book in any language brings together such sophisticated analysis... Her reputation as a scholar is international, her scholarship excellent, and her publication list immense.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Maiorova is an internationally recognized scholar, a dedicated teacher, and an excellent citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Olga Maiorova be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2009